

Name: _____

Color: _____

Race the Color of Illusion:

This video examines a question so basic it is rarely asked: What is this thing called "race"? It turns out that many of our common assumptions about race-for instance, that the world's people can be divided biologically along racial lines- are wrong. Believing in biological races is like believing the sun revolves around the earth. Nevertheless, the consequences of racism are very real. This video is an eye-opening tale of how the ideas we assume to be normal, be scientific, are actually shaped by our history, social institutions, and cultural beliefs.

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the video. Questions are in order- Pay attention.

Episode Two: The Story We Tell- Scenes 1-4- Stop at 9:30

1. What is race?
2. What did Jefferson write in his Notes on the State of Virginia about black men and women?
3. What motivated Jefferson to report on the status of black men and women?
4. In 1619, when the first Africans arrived in the American colonies, what was the social status of people based on?
5. Why did hierarchies of social power change to eventually be based on race?
6. Why did ordinary white people begin benefiting from the concept of race?